



*Peter Heinz Daniels
(Berlowitz)*

Holocaust Survivor: Terezin/Theresienstadt
July 8, 1936 – May 24, 2021

Peter Daniels – Q & A

Q & A Session from the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, CA

Peter Daniels – Q&A

HOLOCAUST EXPERIENCE BEFORE THERESIENSTADT/TEREZIN

Q: *First feeling about the Holocaust?*

I don't recall what I knew about the war. I was isolated in a small flat in Berlin, with rare contact with the outside world. No newspapers, radio, movies, nor interaction with adults. So very little news filtered down to me.

Q: *What did you wish for during the Holocaust?*

Decent and adequate food, clothing, bedding and a more tolerant mother.

Q: *Did you get to see Hitler or Mengele?*

My mother and I would watch parades close to where we lived, and Hitler was often in an open car, waving to the crowds.

LIFE IN A CONCENTRATION CAMP

Q: *What do you remember about arriving at the concentration camp?*

Arriving in the middle of the night, hungry and tired, from a two-day cattle car transport. Walked about a mile to inside the camp, finally stretching out on the bare floors of one of the large buildings, while rats scurried around the floor around me. (A normal train ride from Berlin to Prague is typically 5 hours).

Q: *What were the conditions of the camp?*

Imagine 40,000 to 70,000 people crowded into a facility built for 5,500. This was a transit camp where people came in and were shipped to death camps, as well as dying in the camp. That's why the population fluctuated. (This would be like West Linn and Lake Oswego combined populations ~65,000, crammed into the Portland Expo Center, which can hold a maximum of 7,000 people).

Q: *Describe a typical day in a concentration camp?*

Boredom, hunger, apprehension, fear, loneliness. I felt so lost.

Peter Daniels – Q&A

SURVIVAL

Q: Did anyone help you survive (in the camps, ghetto, after the war)?

Not that I remember.

Q: Did any Nazis try to help you?

I don't believe so.

LIBERATION

Q: What were your feelings at liberation?

I am sure I was excited and deliriously happy.

Q: What was the first thing that you did after you were free?

The Red Cross came into the camp with food, clothing and medicine. I got some new clothing and new shoes, which I wore to bed for three nights.

Q: Where did you go? What happened to you after liberation?

My mother and I returned to Berlin because we had no other place to go. We lived in the American sector for about four months, then moved to a refugee camp (DP Camp). Two years later (1947), we immigrated to America.

IMPACT OF THE HOLOCAUST

Q: How did the Holocaust affect your life? Did it change the way you felt or viewed life?

I do not remember a normal childhood. Hardly any happy memories; mostly living in my private hell; I often wondered how old I was because I didn't ever celebrate my birthday.

Q: How would you react to Holocaust deniers (those who deny it happened)?

Holocaust deniers are incompetent fools who need a forum, so they are not lost in the crowds.

Peter Daniels – Q&A

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO PERISHED

Q: If you'd like to say something special to anyone you lost during that time, what would it be?

I wonder if we survivors are doing a good enough job; giving our testimonies so that you, who did not survive, will never be forgotten.

REMEMBER THE HOLOCAUST

Q: Why is it important to remember the Holocaust?

The Holocaust reminds us of the tragedies that the world allowed to happen; to forget the Holocaust is to give moral victory to all those who turned a blind eye.

Q: How do you think the Holocaust has impacted history?

The Holocaust has laid bare the darkest side of humanity. History should never forget it.

Q: Do you ever think it will happen again?

I am convinced that we have not seen the last of such a genocide. History has shown when societies face social and economic difficulties, scapegoats are not far behind.

MESSAGE TO YOUTH TODAY

Q: What message do you want to give youth today?

Don't be too smug believing that another genocide can't happen. Human nature operates in a fragile environment which could collapse under wrong circumstances.

Q: Why do you speak about your experience?

I hope my story personalizes the statistical nightmare, that is so difficult and painful to comprehend. I do so because of my conviction that our young people, must carry on the legacy, stories, and lessons of the Holocaust so that its 6 million murdered Jews, and 11 million murdered non-Jews, will never be forgotten.

Georg Berlowitz

Persecution Letter

Peter's maternal grandfather's persecution letter from February 1942. Georg was Hilde Berlowitz's father. Hilde was Peter's mother.

Georg had already died from cancer on August 14, 1941. He was buried in Berlin. His death is noted at the bottom of the letter.

We know that the Nazi's instead took his wife, Anna Michels (step-mother). Anna was transported to the Łódź Ghetto in Poland, and we assume to a death camp. The Nazi death records show May 4, 1942.



ITS 03E

Berlin SW 61, den 5. 7. 42
Blücherplatz 2
Tel.: Sammelnummer 66 54 61
Nachruf: 66 06 56, 66 07 11
Postfachkonto: Berlin 6070
Telegrammanschrift: Deutschrothkreuz

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz

Präsidium

Führungsstab

VII/6 - Lz N 6 a *W*

Rktz.:

(Bei Beantwortung unbedingt anzugeben)

An das

Einwohnermeldeamt

in

Berlin NO 55

Auf Veranlassung des Internationalen Komitees vom Roten Kreuz bittet das Deutsche Rote Kreuz um Mitteilung der neuen Anschrift der nachstehend aufgeführten.

Eine Zuschrift kam mit dem Vermerk zurück:

unbekannt verzogen
ins Ausland verzogen

Heil Hitler!
Deutsches Rotes Kreuz
Der Auslandsdienst
I.A.

Lorenz

Personalien: *George Berlowitz*

frühere Anschrift: *Bru NO Bismarckstr 71*

jetzige Anschrift:

67
Personalien:
Berlowitz

Berlin, den 9. 7. 1942

Abt. II - Meldeamt

S. 8.

Rach



*George Berlowitz, 10. 1. 79 Neustadt
i Posen 86, ist am 16. 8. 41 versch.
No. Wedding-3854*

*Schriftlich ergebenst zurück:
Berlin C 2, den 14. 7. 1942
Der Polizeipräsident
1. 7. 1942
Rach*

Peter Heinz Berlowitz

Birth Certificate

This is Peter's birth certificate, he is #1046. It is all in German. You will see in the right column, in 1939 the name "Israel" was added to his name. You will also see this on his German Jewish Passport.

In August of 1938, the government issued an Executive Order on the Law on the Alteration of Family and Personal Names requiring German Jews bearing first names of "non-Jewish" origin to adopt an additional name: "Israel" for males and "Sara" for females. The German government required Jews to identify themselves in ways that would permanently separate them from the rest of the German population.

There is also additional information in the right column indicating he was in Deggendorf (DP Camp).

A.

Nr. 1046

Berlin-Wilmersdorf, am 14. Juli 1936

Vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschien heute, der Persönlichkeit nach

_____ be kannt,
 Herr Hermann Hermann Hermann
 Rodisch,

wohnhaft in Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Gintz altpfarrer 55

und zeigte an, daß von der
 Herr Hermann Hermann Hermann Hermann
 Gintz altpfarrer 55

wohnhaft in Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Kriegerallee 45a,

zu Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Kriegerallee 30,

am _____ des Jahres

tausend neunhundert sechsunddreißig _____ mittags

um _____ bei Mitternacht ein _____

geboren worden sei und daß das Kind _____ in Vornamen

_____ erhalten habe.

Die Anzeigende erklärte, daß sie bei der Niederkunft

zugegen gewesen sei.

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und _____

Herrmann Rodisch

Der Standesbeamte.

In Vertretung: Herrmann Rodisch

Die Übereinstimmung mit dem Hauptregister beglaubigt

Berlin-Wilmersdorf, am 14. Juli 1936

Der Standesbeamte.

In Vertretung: Herrmann Rodisch

Nr. 1046

Berlin-Wilmersdorf
 am 23. 1. 1939.
 Auf Grund der Zweiten Ver-
 ordnung vom 17. August 1938
 zur Durchführung des Gesetzes
 über die Änderung von Fa-
 miliennamen und Vornamen
 führt das nebenbezeichnete
 Kind zusätzlich den Vornamen

Herrmann
 Der Standesbeamte
 Herrmann

Beglaubigt

Charlottenburg 8. Nov. 1939
 Justizamt
 als Ust.-Beamt. der Geschäftsstell.
 des Amtsgerichts, Abt. 18.

Nr. 1046

Berlin-Lichtenberg
 am 14. Januar 1950

Herr Herrmann Herrmann
 Lichtenberg, wohnhaft in
 Lichtenberg, hat durch
 Erklärung vor dem Standes-
 beamten des Standesamts
 Lichtenberg vom 5. Februar
 1946 dem nebenbezeichneten
 Kinde seinen familiennamen
 "Herrmann Lichtenberg"
 erteilt. Abschließung am
 19. Oktober 1945 im Standesamt
 Lichtenberg Nr. 82/45.

Der Standesbeamte
 In Vertretung
 Herrmann

Nr. 1046

Berlin-Lichtenberg
 den 10. November 1950

Die vorstehend bezeichnete
 Verordnung ist durch Gesetz
 des Alliierten Kontrollrats vom
 20. September 1945 widerrufen.
 Der Randvermerk über den
 zusätzlich angenommenen
 Vornamen ist ungültig.

Der Standesbeamte
 In Vertretung: Herrmann

1936
 1046
 1046
 1046

Peter Heinz Berlowitz

German Jewish Passport

This is Peter's German Jewish Passport. His picture is no longer adhered to it. He had to always have this with him. This was also his "pass" that he had to show if he and his mother were stopped on the street. They were only allowed out in public during set times.

Note the addition of "Israel" to his name in the middle of the left page and the Nazi Eagle stamp on the right page.

We have the original, which is incredible considering all his possessions were confiscated!

30/VIII 43

28/IX 43

25/II 44

18.IV.44

25.IV.44

73677-I-78

Rathaus

A102 (8-28) 7

Deutsches Reich

Dieser Ausweis behält
vorläufig seine Gültigkeit.

1944-1948

Kennkarte

30.8.1943

erhöht.

don B

Kennort:	Berlin-Niederschönhausen
Kennnummer:	A 738628
Gültig bis:	21. Januar 1944
Name:	Verlousidz,
Vornamen:	Johr, Maria, Josef
Geburtsdag:	8. Juli 1936
Geburtsort:	Berlin-Schleserhof
Beruf:	
Unveränderliche Kennzeichen:	
Veränderliche Kennzeichen:	
Bemerkungen:	
Gebührenfrei - RM. Geb.-Buch Nr. 29/10/38	

Dienststempel	Rechter Zeigefinger
Lichtbild	
Dienststempel	Linker Zeigefinger
(Unterschrift des Kennkarteninhabers)	
Berlin-Niederschönhausen 21. JAN. 1939 19	
Der Polizeipräsident in Berlin	
283. Polizeirevier (Ausstellende Behörde)	
(Unterschrift des ausfertigenden Beamten)	

Peter Heinz Berlowitz

Terezin Train “Ticket”

This is Peter's Train Ticket for Terezin. We also have the original! We cannot believe it has not deteriorated.

Also included are two photos of Peter. The first is when he was about four or five (1940-1941), when he was left alone in the Berlin flat and a couple year prior to being “arrested” and sent to Terezin. This was the only photo of him prior to Terezin.

The second photo is from his Deggendorf-DP Camp documentation. He was probably 10 in this photo.

ÚSTŘEDNÍ KARTOTÉKA — TRANSPORTY.

Osoby došlé do Terezína z různých území, přežily v Terezíně podle publikace
MSP, repatr. odbor: „Terezín-ghetto“

Berlovitz Heinz Peter

rodná data: *8. 7. 1936*

původní transp. číslo *13671 - I/98 - Berlin*

folio v knize „Terezín“ *23*

IV.

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